US Army Corps of Engineers

# Port Clinton Coastal Restoration, OH

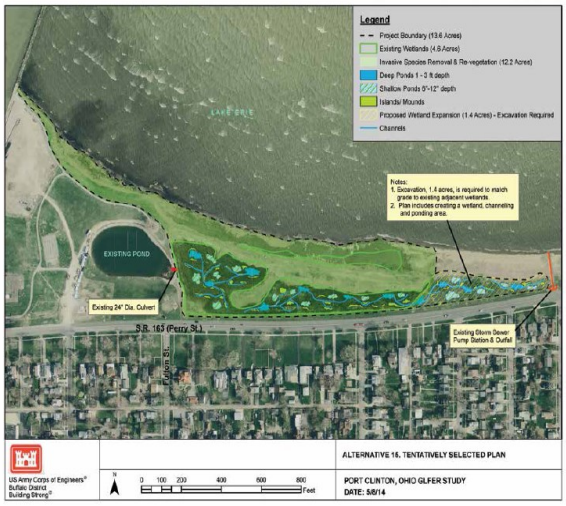
## Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration

### Section 506, Water Resources Devlopment Act of 2000

**Project Location:** The project is located on the south shoreline of Lake Erie in the city of Port Clinton, OH, east of the mouth of the Portage River.

**Description of Problem:** Due to rising lake levels, shoreline erosion, and sedimentation issues, the quality of the coastal wetlands has deteriorated over the past 50 years, putting a strain on many of fish populations of the Lake. Wetlands of Lake Erie are important to fish production because they provide spawning and nursery habitat for many wetland dependent species, cover for juvenile and forage fish, and feeding areas for predator fish. Wetlands are also important resting areas for migratory birds, including several endangered species. This project will restore and expand coastal wetlands along the existing shoreline of a shallow bay in the Western Lake Erie basin, which has been identified as a prime fish spawning habitat.

**Proposed Project:** The plan includes removing invasive plant species and revegetating a 12.2 acre project site, expanding a 1.4 acre wetland, and creating microtopography within the wetlands. This plan includes creation of a shallow ridge/ swale topography with isolated depressional areas and channels within the wetland and the wetland expansion area. The proposed project will also include invasive plant species removal from the entire project area with subsequent revegetation.

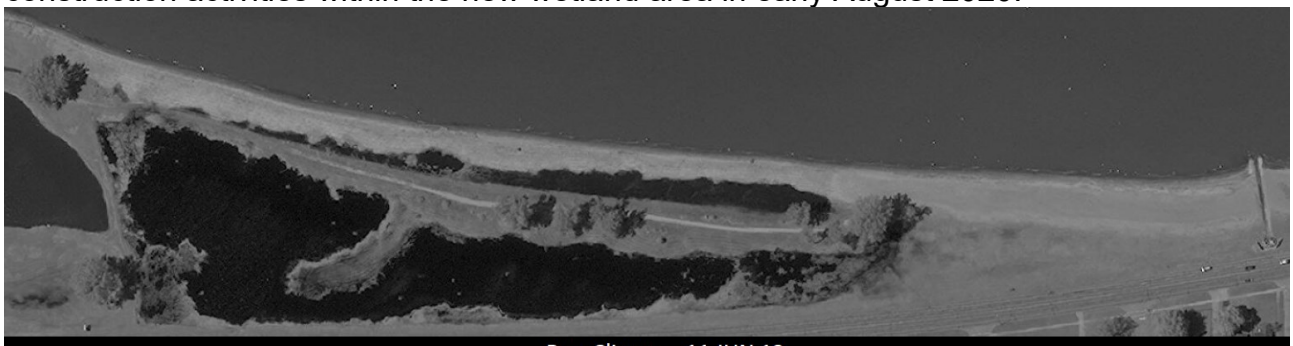



**Partners and Collaboration:** City of Port Clinton, OH is the non-federal partner for this project and will be responsible for about one-third of project costs and responsible for long-term monitoring and maintenance of the project to ensure that its ecosystem benefits are sustained.

**Project Benefits:** The proposed project will rehabilitate approximately 14 acres of coastal wetland habitat, to include removal of invasive species such as purple loosestrife and phragmites from the existing coastal wetland and replanting area with native vegetation. Addition of coastal wetlands in the Western Basin of Lake Erie has been deemed important in the Lake Erie LaMP Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The wetland will be permanently maintained by the City of Port Clinton, which will monitor the project site and continue to remove invasive species for the project life. The site is a key stop-off point for migratory birds including several endangered warbler species and will restore habitat suitable for the American bittern and piping plover. Several recreational and commercial fish species will benefit from the proposed project, as well as native plant species, including three state-listed sedge and rush species. In addition, the project will result in increased habitat quality, and native fish species richness and abundance. Secondary benefits can be attributed to education, recreation, and safety.

| Measure of Progress | Project Output |
|---|---|
| 3.1.1 - Projected phosphorus reductions (measured in pounds) | Estimated to reduce 176 million pounds of sediment from suspension in the waterway. |
| 3.1.3 - Measured nutrient and sediment reductions (measured in pounds) | Nutrient Management, Streambank stabilization, Riparian Forest Buffer |
| 4.1.4 - Number of acres of other habitats in the Great Lakes basin protected, restored and enhanced | Estimated to restore approximately 18 acres |

**Project Status:** High waters in Lake Erie have prolonged the construction schedule. The contractor completed construction in the existing wetland in August 2019 and began construction activities within the new wetland area in early August 2020.



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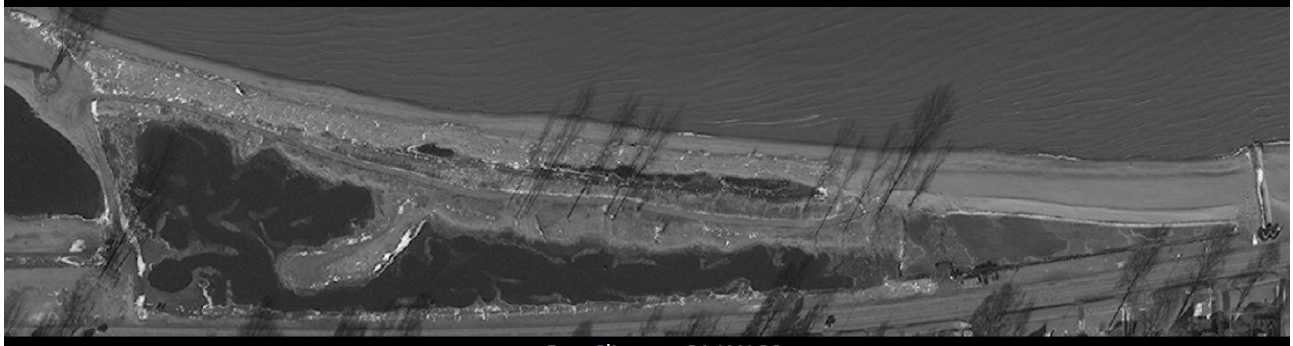

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| Estimated Project Costs | |
|---|---|
| Federal | $1,248,000 |
| Non-federal | $672,000 |
| Total | $1,920,000 |

| Project Budget | |
|---|---|
| FY 2018 | $720,000 |
| FY 2019 | $150,000 |
| FY 2020 | $120,000 |
| FY 2021 | $135,000 |
| FY 2022 | $45,000 |

| Project Milestones | |
|---|---|
| Completion of Task Order #4 | SEP 2021 |
| Award Final Task Order | MAR 2022 |

| Point of Contact |
|---|
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